



Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story

By Chuck Klosterman

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Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story By Chuck Klosterman

Building on the national bestselling success of *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs*, preeminent pop culture writer Chuck Klosterman unleashes his best book yet—the story of his cross-country tour of sites where rock stars have died and his search for love, excitement, and the meaning of death.

For 6,557 miles, Chuck Klosterman thought about dying. He drove a rental car from New York to Rhode Island to Georgia to Mississippi to Iowa to Minneapolis to Fargo to Seattle, and he chased death and rock ‘n’ roll all the way. Within the span of twenty-one days, Chuck had three relationships end—one by choice, one by chance, and one by exhaustion. He snorted cocaine in a graveyard. He walked a half-mile through a bean field. A man in Dickinson, North Dakota, explained to him why we have fewer windmills than we used to. He listened to the KISS solo albums and the Rod Stewart box set. At one point, poisonous snakes became involved. The road is hard. From the Chelsea Hotel to the swampland where Lynyrd Skynyrd’s plane went down to the site where Kurt Cobain blew his head off, Chuck explored every brand of rock star demise. He wanted to know why the greatest career move any musician can make is to stop breathing...and what this means for the rest of us.

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Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story By Chuck Klosterman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Klosterman follows up on 2003's *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs* by expanding on an article he wrote for *Spin* about driving cross-country to visit several of America's most famous rock and roll death sites, from the Rhode Island club where more than 90 Great White fans died in a fire, to the Iowa field where Buddy Holly's plane crashed. Along the way, Klosterman opines on rock music, never afraid to offend—as when he interprets a Radiohead album as a 9/11 prophecy or reminds readers that before Kurt Cobain's suicide, many preferred Pearl Jam to Nirvana. The quest to uncover these deaths' social significance is quickly overwhelmed by Klosterman's personal obsessions, especially his agonizing over sexual relationships. He applies semifictional techniques to these concerns, inventing an imaginary conversation in the car with three girlfriends that becomes the book's centerpiece. This literary cleverness recalls classic gonzo journalism, but also contains a self-conscious edge, inviting comparison to Dave Eggers. Klosterman also worries his neuroses will brand him as "the male Elizabeth Wurtzel," but he needn't fret. Despite their shared subject matter of drug use and cultural musing, Klosterman has clearly established that he has a potent voice all his own.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Armed with 600 CDs in the back seat, a task of gargantuan rock 'n' roll proportions, memories of three dysfunctional relationships (an ex, a sort of ex, and a true love), and a wild imagination, Klosterman's in good shape for his cross-country death trip. A few critics compared his pop-culture musings to Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity*. Yet Klosterman (*Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs* *** Nov/Dec 2003) tries harder, indulges himself more, chats faster, uses more gimmicks, and doesn't achieve Hornby's heights. But Klosterman is nothing if not articulate about music, and his light, humorous touch often reveals meatier themes and revelatory insights about not only music but also life and death, particularly his own life. Reading Klosterman is like sitting in a bar with a good friend. It's fun, but when it's time to leave, it's time to leave.

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From [Booklist](#)

Klosterman runs rock to ground in this "death project" that opens with him poking about in the notorious Chelsea Hotel, where Sid Vicious associate Nancy Spungen died. The manager, discerning Klosterman's interest--and wanting no publicity--asks him to leave. A great takeoff for this grim but snappy travelogue and disquisition on death, fame, substance abuse, and rock 'n' roll. Pursuing further enlightenment, Klosterman visits the scene of Lynyrd Skynyrd's fatal crash, muses on Cotard's syndrome, and ruminates on the fates of Waylon Jennings and Buddy Holly. Jennings, then touring with Holly, didn't board the plane that went down with the latter aboard, consequently outliving the bespectacled star, only to gain renown as narrator of *The Dukes of Hazzard*--"a better legacy than being the unofficial namesake for an entire genre of eyeglasses?" Klosterman asks, as one well might. Klosterman's keen eye for American pop-cultural themes and undercurrents facilitates thoughtful observation, and his prose brings those themes and undercurrents together in strange, fresh ways. A treat for the adventurous. *Mike Tribby*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Annette Carroll:

You could spend your free time to study this book this book. This Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story is simple to develop you can read it in the area, in the beach, train as well as soon. If you did not possess much space to bring the printed book, you can buy the e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. Thus there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Albert Guerra:

In this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of the books in the top listing in your reading list is usually Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hillsides can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking way up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

David Smith:

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James Esparza:

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